

MAYORS ASK TO BE HEARD.

THEY WANT TO TALK TO THE GOV-
ERNOR ABOUT THE RAINES BILL

SENATOR RAINES AND SPEAKER FISH INDUCE
THE GOVERNOR TO ANNOUNCE THAT THERE

IN THE REQUEST.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
Albany, March 13.—John Boyd Thacher, Mayor of Albany, telegraphed to the Mayors of the thirty-nine cities in the State this morning that he was about to request Governor Morton to

grant them a hearing on the Raines Liquor Tax bill, and asked of each one: Will you authorize me to add your name to the request? Mr. Thatcher's idea was that, inasmuch as the cities will be compelled to surrender one-third of the money they collect under the tax on liquor-dealers, the authorities of these places may wish to say something personally to the Governor about the bill.

Speaker Fish and Senator Raines no sooner heard of what Mayor Thatcher had done than they rushed off to the room of Governor Morton and persuaded him to announce that he would not grant any hearing on the Raines bill. Mr. Morton may change his mind when he sees how strong is the desire of the Mayors of the State to be heard. He gave a hearing on the Insurance Retaliation bill, and it would seem incredible that he should refuse it on one of the greatest legislative enactments which have been passed in recent years.

Governor Moritor's law adviser, Charles Z. Lincoln, was at work to-day examining legal authorities to learn if the bill must be referred to the Mayors of cities for their approval or disapproval. At first appearance the Raines bill is a general act such as it is not necessary to refer to the Mayors, but it has special features, and certain cities of the same class have a different grade of license.

The Governor has until March 24 to make a decision on the bill. This is the day on which the Republican State Convention will be held in New-York City. Some politicians think, from Thomas C. Platt's desperate haste to pass the bill yesterday in the Assembly, that he intends to coerce Governor Morton indirectly into signing it. They imagine him saying to Mr. Morton: "This Raines bill gives me a tremendous amount of political patronage, and the power to exert political influence through the liquor-dealers. If you sign the bill I can give you a big boom for President at the Republican State Convention. If you veto it, I am afraid a great deal of my present enthusiasm for you, founded upon previous doses of patronage, will vanish."

The Republican Mayors who replied to Mayor Thacher's telegram apparently feared a political trap of some sort and, therefore, did not second his efforts to procure a hearing for the cities on the Raines bill. Mayor Strong, of New-York, telegraphed: "I think not." Frederick W. Wurster, Mayor of Brooklyn, telegraphed the following answer: "Replying to your telegram, I see by the newspapers that the bill is already in the hands of the Governor."

"You can add my name to the list," telegraphed George C. May, Mayor of Rochester. Orlando Lewis, Mayor of Auburn, telegraphed: "Yes, but will not be able to attend hearing." John D. Higgins, Mayor of Oswego, telegraphed: "Cannot join suggested request to Governor. If I should desire hearing, I prefer to present views personally." Charles King, Mayor of Little Falls, telegraphed: "Your telegram received. I am in favor of the Raines bill." Mayor Arnold, of Poughkeepsie, and Mayor Jewett, of Buffalo, were both absent from their cities, and therefore no answer could be obtained from them. George

H. Tater, Mayor of Hudson, telegraphed: "Use my name asking Governor to give hearing on Raines bill to Mayors of cities." Francis J. Malloy, Mayor of Troy, telegraphed: "Will be pleased to give any assistance in my power." James K. McGuire, Mayor of Syracuse, said: "You may add my name to the list." W. J. P. Kingsley, Mayor of Rome, telegraphed: "You may use my name as you wish against bill." D. B. Lacy, Mayor of Ogdensburg, telegraphed: "You have the permission requested." O. W. Cutler, Mayor of Niagara Falls, telegraphed: "You are authorized to add my name to your request to the

Governor for a hearing on the Raines bill." John J. Gibson, Mayor of Utica, telegraphed: "You may add my name to the request for a hearing." Frederick Collin, Mayor of Elmira, telegraphed: "Yes, add my name to your request to the Governor for a hearing on the Raines Liquor Tax bill." George E. Green, Mayor of Binghamton, telegraphed: "You may use my name if you desire, although I am emphatically in favor of the Raines bill."

Mayor Thatcher at the close of the day, although he had received replies from only one-third of

the Mayors, deemed it best to send the following letter to Governor Morton lest Senator Raines and Speaker Fish might persuade the Governor to sign the bill before he was aware that the Mayors desired to be heard on it:

To Hon. Levi P. Morton, Executive Chamber, State

Dear Sir: Senate bill, commonly known as the Raines Liquor Tax law, is now in your hands. The Legislature has interpreted this bill as general in its application, and, therefore, has declined to submit it to the Mayors and local legislative bodies, as it is affecting cities, must be submitted under

all bills affecting the subject of the Constitution. I cannot conceive of a measure which more directly and specifically affects the cities of the State. The advocates of this bill have sought to identify all its opponents with the dealers and controllers of the liquor traffic of the State. There are far higher issues at stake than the protection of any one trade or industry.

I ask for a hearing on this measure in behalf of my own city, and I am authorized to make a statement, and also the names of the following

cities of the State: George E. Warner, Rochester; George H. Tater, Hudson; Francis J. Moloy, Troy; James K. McGuire, Syracuse; W. J. P. Kinsley, Rome; D. R. Lucey, Ogdensburg; O. J. Wines, Niagara Falls; John A. Gibson, Buffalo; Frederick C. Ellis, Elmira; Orlando Lewis, Auburn, and George E. Green, Binghamton.

Therefore, I respectfully urge that a day be set apart when the Mayors and local authorities of the several cities of the State may be heard before you concerning this bill, and that the hearing be confined to those who represent the different cities to be heard. Yours,

JOHN BOYD THACHER, Mayor.

Mayor Thacher sent this letter to Governor Morton at the Executive Mansion to-night.

Thomas C. Platt informed one of his followers early this week that as soon as the Raines bill became a law supplemental bills would be passed, making some concessions to liquor-dealers. One of these concessions may be a lower tax on ale and beer. Senator Raines denied to-day that any such concession would be made, and

the same statement came from Mr. Alida, chairman of the Assembly Excise Committee. Nevertheless, some liquor-dealers declare that the Platt Republicans will do so. Mr. Platt has obtained the support for the Raines bill of some advocates of high license. With his political machine once created by the Raines bill, will he repudiate the high-license doctrine and seek the favor of the

Liquor-dealers? Under high license the number of saloons will be reduced, and therefore the number of saloonkeepers subject to political blackmail will be less. That would not be agreeable to the leaders of the Platt machine. A lowering of the ale and beer license by supple-

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GEORGE C. BENJAMIN, BROADWAY, COR. 36TH ST.—(Adv.)